

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 14418 091744Z

41 45

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EUR-10 AID-10

RSR-01 /078 W

----- 046984

R 091215Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5760

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14418

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ORIG MSG INCOMPLETE)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR MOPS HU ID PL VS

SUBJ: MR IV SITREP FOR AUG 8, 1973

HEREWITH REPEAT AMCONSUL CAN THO 0635 ACTION AMEMBASSY  
SAIGON QUOTE

O R 080435Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL CAN THO

TO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 588

INFO RHMSMVA/USDAO AOSOP-OR SAIGON

RUMMRGA/USSAG ANKHON PHANOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0635

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR AUGUST 8, 1973

SUMMARY: VC ACTIVITY REMAINS CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 14418 091744Z

THE NORTHERN DELTA IS QUIETER THAN USUAL. A SERIOUS VC

ATTACK ON A VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS IS REPORTED FROM SA DEC. A SUSPECTED LARGE NVA FORCE HAS MOVED INTO NORTHWESTERN BAC LIEU FROM CHUONG THIEN, AND A VC BATTALION HAS MOVED INTO THE EASTERN END OF THE PROVINCE. A HEAVY ATTACK BY FIRE IN KIEN GIANG SUGGESTS RENEWED NVA INFILTRATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE ICCS REGION VI INDONESIAN TEAM HAS POSTPONED A PLANNED UNILATERAL INCIDENT INVESTIGATION. LEADER OF GOLDEN CRAB BANDIT GROUP IS KILLED IN CHAU DOC. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MR IV REPORTED 84 VC-INITATED INCIDENTS FOR AUGUST 6-7, INCLUDING 7 GROUND ATTACKS, 65 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 10 HARASSMENTS, AND 2 TERRORIST INCIDENTS. VC ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO BE CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, NOTABLY FEATURING A CONCENTRATION OF FOUR ATTACKS BY FIRE AND A GROUND ATTACK IN HOA HUNG VILLAGE IN THE NORTHERMOST CORNER OF THE PROVINCE. MR IV REPORTED 51 TROOPS KILLED, 150 WOUNDED, 9 MISSING, AND 30 WEAPONS LOST. THE GVN CLAIMS THE VC LOST 75 KILLED, ONE CAPTURED, 4 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS AND 18 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED. FOR AUGUST 7, GVN SURPRISINGLY REPORTS AN EQUAL NUMBER (28) OF ITS OWN TROOPS KILLED AND VC/NVA KILLED. REPORTED VC/NVA KILLED HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HIGHER.

2. ICCS: COMMAND OF THE INDONESIAN ICCS REGION VI TEAM IN MY THO WAS FORMALLY TRANSFERRED ON AUGUST 7 TO LTC TUNGKUDUNG. PRESUMABLY DUE TO THE CHANGEOVER, AN EARLIER INDONESIAN PLAN (CAN THO 0631) TO UNILATERALLY INVESTIGATE AN INCIDENT NEAR MY THO HAS BEEN POSTPONED--PROBABLY AT LEAST UNTIL THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES: THE TWO WEEK STRUGGLE IN CHAU DOC BETWEEN GVN FORCES AND THE GOLDEN CRAB ORGANIZATION (CAN THO 0633 AND 0627) REACHED A CLIMAX AUGUST 7 WHEN GOVERNMENT TROOPS KILLED THE GOLDEN CRAB LEADER, A MAN CALLED MACH (SIC). THE SAME DAY THE GVN ALSO REPORTEDLY CAPTURED 14 GOLDEN CRAB OPERATIVES INCLUDING TWO HIGH-LEVEL ASSISTANTS TO THE LEADER. MACH WAS SHOT DEAD WHEN HE REFUSED TO SURRENDER TO GVN TROOPS WHO HAD SURROUNDED HIS HOUSE NEAR THE HOA HAO VILLAGE HOLY LAND AREA. IN THE HOUSE WERE FOUND QUASI-LEGAL FORMS, TYPEWRITERS, AND SEALS OF OFFICE SUGGESTING THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 14418 091744Z

ORGANIZATION HAD EXERCISED QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION OVER SOME PEOPLE IN THE AREA.

4. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: (A) THE KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE AND THE DINH TUONG VICE CONSUL BOTH REPORT DECREASED VC ACTIVITY IN THEIR NORTHERN DELTA PROVINCES IN RECENT DAYS.

(B) THE SA DEC PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS AN ATTACK BY SOME 30 VC ON THE AN PHU TUAN VILLAGE OFFICE (DUC TON DISTRICT) THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 6-7, RESULTING IN 26 GVN PERSONNEL KILLED, INCLUDING 3 NATIONAL POLICE, 5 PF, AND 7 LOCAL CIVILIAN OFFICIALS. SA DEC IS TIED WITH AN GIANG AND GO CONG AS THE MOST PACIFIED PROVINCE IN THE COUNTRY, WITH 100 PER CENT OF ITS HAMLETS IN THE HES A AND B CATEGORIES.

(C) THE PHONG DINH PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THE RESULTS OF A NATIONAL POLICE SUMMARY OF VC TERRORISM IN THE PROVINCE IN THE MONTH OF JULY: THERE WERE REPORTEDLY 15 VC ABDUCTION INCIDENTS AND 5 ASSASSINATIONS. BOOBY TRAPS KILLED 19 PERSONS AND WOUNDED 37. VC SNIPER FIRE INJURED 2 PERSONS. TWO HAND GRENADE INCIDENTS RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF A HOI CHANH AND HIS SON AND WOUNDED THREE OTHER PERSONS. A TNT EXPLOSION IN FRONT OF A VILLAGE COFFEE BAR CAUSED 8 WOUNDED.

(D) THE AN GIANG PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS 23 B40 ROCKETS AND TEN 61MM MORTAR SHELLS HIT THE AN BINH RF ARTILLERY BASE IN THE AN GIANG SPECIAL AREA OF OPERATIONS IN KIEN TAN DISTRICT, KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 5-6, KILLING TWO RF AND WOUNDING EIGHT. THE BASE IS LOCATED SO AS TO INTERDICT NVA INFILTRATION FROM CAMBODIA THROUGH KIEN GIANG INTO CHUONG THIEN. IN THE PAST, SUCH HEAVY SHELLING IN THE AREA HAS PRESAGED INCREASED INFILTRATION.

(E) THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS SUSPECTED VC/NVA MOVEMENT SOUTHWARD FROM CHUONG THIEN INTO THE WESTERN AREAS OF THE PROVINCE AND FROM BA XUYEN INTO THE EASTERN AREA OF BAC LIEU PROVINCE. A FORCE OF PERHAPS 400 MEN, PROBABLY NVA, HAS MOVED SOUTH FROM CHUONG THIEN INTO PHUOC LONG DISTRICT, BAC LIEU. ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 4-5, TEN 82MM ROUNDS HIT THE PHUOC LONG DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, BUT WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 14418 091744Z

CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGE. AT PRECISELY THE SAME MOMENT, THE CONG DA OUTPOST TEN KILOMETERS WEST OF THE DISTRICT TOWN WAS ATTACKED WITH MORTARS, M-79 FIRE AND AN AMBUSH. ONLY ONE PF WAS KILLED AND TEN WOUNDED, BUT THE LOSS OF 14 WEAPONS AND A RADIO SUGGESTS A ROUT. A HEAVY GROUND ATTACK ON CO THUM OUTPOST NEAR THE CHUONG THIEN BORDER, HOWEVER, RESULTED IN A GVN VICTORY: GVN LOST ONE KILLED, ONE WOUNDED, ONE MISSING, AND THREE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, BUT E VC LOST 25 KILLED. TWO RF-INITIATED OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN AREA OF THE DISTRICT RESULTED IN AN ADDITIONAL 20 VC KILLED. TO THE EAST, IT IS REPORTED THAT THE VC PHU LOI I BATTALION, WITH ABOUT 150 MEN, CROSSED THE MY THANH RIVER FROM BA XUYEN INTO VINH CHAU DISTRICT. LEHMANN UNQUOTE  
MARTIN

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